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Nonpoint Source Training News, Fall 2013

Maine Department of Environmental Protection

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Maine Nonpoint Source Training News



September / 13 / 2013

Commissioner's Corner

Welcome to the Department of Environmental Protection's newest edition of the Maine Nonpoint Source Training News! This newsletter is one of three that the Department produces including the Maine EnviroNews and the Shoreland Zoning Newsletter. The newsletters provide regulatory updates, case studies, training opportunities and helpful resources and are also moving to electronic formats. To sign up or find more information on these, visit the DEP newsletters webpage. You can also stay in touch with my news and views by visiting the Commissioner's Corner

This summer I've been busy traveling across the State, meeting with Mainers on ways to improve our environment and ensure a sustainable economy. Last session, Governor LePage signed a bill so the Department could begin to pay back municipalities it owed for partial closing or remediation costs of their unlined landfills. I have had the pleasure of presenting checks to Greenville and Bath, and will be in Presque Isle and Caribou to continue with the paybacks. These municipalities did the right thing for the environment and the Department did the right thing for the economy by getting its fiscal house in order.

We always welcome the public's suggestions and ideas on how we can further protect our environment and are often out meeting with the public. This weekend, please visit our booth at the Common Ground Fair to speak with DEP staff and learn more about our Sustainability Division and Environmental Leader program.

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Commissioner's Corner

2013 Fall Training Schedule

Number of Certified
Individuals Tops 2300

Results of Winter/Spring
2013 Training

Thank you for your interest in DEP and our ongoing work to protect Maine's environment and natural resources.

Training Sessions Slated for Fall of 2013

The Department of Environmental Protection's Nonpoint Source Training and Resource Center is offering a robust schedule of classes for the Fall of 2013. The Department will again provide training in erosion and sediment control practices to ensure that the remaining excavation contractors in the state who did not get DEP certified by January 1, 2013, (allowing them to work in the shoreland zone) have a final opportunity to attend training and obtain needed certification.

Classes in basic and advanced erosion and sediment control practices will be held in 9 locations covering Androscoggin, Aroostook, Cumberland, Franklin, Penobscot, Piscataquis and Washington counties. These sessions are sponsored by private organizations, municipalities and local soil & water conservation districts.

Classes in Salt Management will again be held this fall to provide information to snow removal contractors on ways to minimize salt use but continue to provide the same level of de-icing protection. These will be half-day sessions and will be held in the Portland, Lewiston and Bangor areas in October and November. See the schedule on below for information on how to register for a session.

Basic and Advanced Erosion Control

Poland, October 24, Fire Station To register, contact Alex Sirois at 998-4604

Caribou, November 13, Caribou Motor Inn, To register, contact Kathryn Michaud at 764-4153 ext. 130

Session #N1453
Portland, November 15, Fireside Inn, To register, contact JETCC at 253-8020

Newport, October 28, Community Center, To register, contact Al Tempesta at 368-3264

Whitneyville, November 19th, Community Center, To register, contact Nate Pennell at 255-3995 ext. 3

Continuing Education For Certified Contractors: Controlling Turbidity

Portland, October 31, Clarion Hotel, To register, contact Loren Lohn at 416-9306

Hermon, November 21, Town Office, To register, contact Annette

Session # N1454
Brewer, December 4, Jeff's Catering, To register contact JETCC

Merrithew at 848-1010

at 253-8020

Sangerville, November 6,
Community Room, To
register, contact Gerald
Peters at 717-5011

Gorham, December 2,
Location TBA, To register
contact Martha Catevenis
at 485-4749

Session # N1455
Augusta, December 11,
Augusta Armory, To
register contact JETCC
at 253-8020

Salt Management Training

Strong, November 8, Town
Office, To register, contact
Rosetta Thompson at
778-4279

Session #N1451 Brewer
October 23, Jeff's
Catering, To register
contact JETCC at
253-8020

Session # N1456
Portland, December 19,
Portland Water District,
To register contact
JETCC at 253-8020

Session #N1452 Lewiston,
November 1, Ramada Inn
and Convention Center, To
register, contact JETCC at
253-8020

Session # N1457
Course on DVD To
register, contact JETCC
at 253-8020

New On-line Re-certification Course Available This Winter

If you are a certified contractor whose certification is about to expire and you are looking for credits to maintain your certification status, you currently have two options: You can take a course offered by the Department or other entity that involves instruction related to erosion control practices, or you can request a pre-recorded DVD from the Center and complete a 10 question quiz. Starting in late December the Center will be offering another option that will hopefully be more convenient to program participants. The course will now be recorded and will be made available on-line on the Department's Web site to view at your convenience. Course materials will also be able to be downloaded as well as the quiz. Once the course is viewed the quiz completed, and sent in along with the course fee, you qualify for re-certification if you score 60% or greater on the quiz, if not, you will have the ability to view the course gain and submit another quiz for certification.

The other advantage to this system is that the on-line course will be available at no charge to view by new employees of construction companies and others. As more classes are recorded it will serve as a constant source of up- to-date information on erosion control practices that is easily accessible.

The Center is excited about embarking on this new endeavor of offering on-line courses. We hope that you will take advantage of this option and let us know ways you think it could be improved.

Number Of Certified Individuals Soars To Over 2300

Department staff and staff of the state's soil & water conservation districts have been very busy this summer handling the many requests from individuals in need of certification in erosion and sediment control practices. The numerous requests are no doubt related to the January 1, 2013, deadline established under Title 38 Section 439-B requiring contractors working in the shoreland zone to have a certified individual on-site.

Since January, the Department has certified over 700 individuals and we anticipate there will be a substantial number of additional individuals certified by the end of the year. For more information on the certification process, please contact Bill Laflamme at: 215-9237

Winter /Spring 2013 Training Season Hosts over 1000 Participants

The Department's NPS Training and Resource Center's Winter/Spring training season trained individuals from January through July. Programs were held for excavation contractors, foresters, state and municipal officials, landowners, engineers and consultants.

Instruction in erosion and sediment control was again provided to contractors and others throughout the state. A total of 16 courses were held. In all, 765 participants attended these sessions.

For municipal and state officials, engineers, contractors, foresters and consultants, four programs in Stream Smart crossings were co-sponsored by the Center in cooperation with the Maine Audubon Society. These classes were held in four locations throughout the state with 150 individuals attending.

In April, the Center partnered with E.J. Prescott and held the Maine Coastal Erosion Workshop. This program provided information on ways to help prevent erosion of shorefront properties along the state's coast line and was attended by over 45 participants.

Finally in July, Center staff participated in two events related to erosion control. The first was an erosion control field day co-sponsored by the Maine Rural Water Association, and the second was a program on the maintenance and repair of gravel roads sponsored by the Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District. A total of 49 participants attended these programs.

The Department would like to thank the instructors, advisory committee members, sponsors, and administrative staff who made these sessions so successful!

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